

quenching the article;

heating the article to a first temperature of from about 275 to about 340°F;

artificially aging the article at the first temperature for a duration of at least 30 minutes;

and

artificially aging the article at a second temperature of from about 325 to about 380°F for a duration of from about 4 hours to about 36 hours, the second temperature being greater than the first temperature by at least 10°F.

5. (Amended) The process of claim 4, wherein the alloy further includes an additive selected from the group consisting of zinc, magnesium, silver, manganese, silicon, zirconium, chromium, vanadium, indium, iron, hafnium, yttrium, lanthanides [or] and combinations thereof.

6. (Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the alloy further includes an additive selected from the group consisting of zinc, magnesium, silver, manganese, silicon, lithium [or] and combinations thereof.

7. (Amended) The process of claim [6] 1, wherein the alloy further includes an additive selected from the group consisting of zirconium, chromium, vanadium, indium, iron, hafnium, yttrium, lanthanides [or] and combinations thereof.

10. (Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the alloy further comprises an additive selected from the group consisting of lithium, magnesium, silver and zirconium.

15. (Amended) A process for improving strength to an article made from an alloy that has been hot deformed and fast cooled, the alloy comprising at least aluminum and copper but substantially free of scandium, the process comprising:

heating the article to a first temperature of from about 275 to about 340°F;

artificially aging the article at the first temperature for a duration of at least 30 minutes;

and

artificially aging the article at a second temperature of from about 325 to about 380°F for a duration of from about 4 to about 36 hours, the second temperature being greater than the first temperature by at least 10°F.

Please add the following new claims:

-- 22. A process for thermally treating an article made from an alloy comprising at least aluminum, copper and silver, the process comprising:

solid solution heat treating the article;

quenching the article;

heating the article to a first temperature of from about 275 to about 340°F;

artificially aging the article at the first temperature for a duration of at least 30 minutes;

and

artificially aging the article at a second temperature of from about 325 to about 380°F for a duration of from about 4 hours to about 36 hours, the second temperature being greater than the first temperature by at least 10°F.

23. A process for improving strength to an article made from an alloy that has been hot deformed and fast cooled, the alloy comprising at least aluminum, copper and silver the process comprising:

heating the article to a first temperature of from about 275 to about 340°F;

artificially aging the article at the first temperature for a duration of at least 30 minutes;

and

artificially aging the article at a second temperature of from about 325 to about 380°F for a duration of from about 4 to about 36 hours, the second temperature being greater than the first temperature by at least 10°F.

24. A process for thermally treating an article made from an AA2195 alloy, the process comprising:

solid solution heat treating the article;

quenching the article;

heating the article to a first temperature of from about 275 to about 340°F;

artificially aging the article at the first temperature for a duration of at least 30 minutes;

and

artificially aging the article at a second temperature of from about 325 to about 380°F for a duration of from about 4 hours to about 36 hours, the second temperature being greater than the first temperature by at least 10°F.

25. A process for improving strength to an article made from an AA2195 alloy that has been hot deformed and fast cooled, the process comprising:

heating the article to a first temperature of from about 275 to about 340°F;

artificially aging the article at the first temperature for a duration of at least 30 minutes;

and

artificially aging the article at a second temperature of from about 325 to about 380°F for a duration of from about 4 to about 36 hours, the second temperature being greater than the first temperature by at least 10°F.

26. A process for thermally treating an article made from an alloy comprising at least aluminum and copper, the process comprising:

solid solution heat treating the article;

quenching the article;

heating the article to a first temperature of from about 310 to about 330°F for a duration of from about 12 to about 36 hours;

artificially aging the article at the first temperature for a duration of at least 30 minutes;

and

artificially aging the article at a second temperature of from about 340 to about 355°F for a duration of from about 4 hours to about 24 hours, the second temperature being greater than the first temperature by at least 10°F.

27. A process for improving strength to an article made from an alloy that has been hot deformed and fast cooled, the alloy comprising at least aluminum and copper, the process comprising:

heating the article to a first temperature of from about 310 to about 330°F for a duration of from about 12 to about 36 hours;

artificially aging the article at the first temperature for a duration of at least 30 minutes;

and

artificially aging the article at a second temperature of from about 340 to about 355°F for a duration of from about 4 to about 24 hours, the second temperature being greater than the first temperature by at least 10°F. --